

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

Questions and Answers

Tools for Salmon* Recovery in Regions and Watersheds

February 2002

What recovery tools are available?

To assist watershed and regional efforts to restore salmon populations to healthy, harvestable levels and to improve habitat, the Joint Natural Resources Cabinet sponsored development of four related tools:

- *Reference Guide to Salmon Recovery (Reference Guide)*
- *Guidance on Watershed Assessment for Salmon (Assessment Guidance)*
- *Roadmap for Salmon Habitat Conservation at the Watershed Level (Watershed Roadmap)*
- *Salmon Recovery Plan Model*

What do we mean by watershed and region?

A “watershed” is the area of land that water flows across or under on its way to a river, lake or ocean. It includes all surface fresh water, adjacent estuaries and marine areas. The framework for watershed boundaries is provided by the state’s designation of 62 Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs).

The Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office, in consultation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, identified seven salmon recovery regions. Each region is based on the salmon recovery needs within a specific geographic area and includes existing Endangered Species Act listings, proposed listings, and where there is a strong likelihood for future listings. The regions include:

- Puget Sound
- Washington Coast
- Lower Columbia River
- Middle Columbia River
- Upper Columbia River
- Snake River
- Northeast Washington

Why were these tools developed?

The *Statewide Strategy to Recover Salmon (1999)* says regional salmon recovery plans are the way the state's strategy will be put into practice. The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office coordinated development of the *Reference Guide*, *Assessment Guidance*, and *Watershed Roadmap*. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) led development of the *Salmon Recovery Plan Model*. These tools were developed to assist state agency staffs and other local partners working on salmon recovery and watershed planning in their watersheds and regions.

Who are the intended audiences for these tools?

The *Reference Guide* provides general information to anyone who is interested in knowing what is going on in salmon recovery. It describes recovery efforts at the federal, state, regional and watershed levels. The *Assessment Guidance* and *Watershed Roadmap* are intended to help lead entities under the Salmon Recovery Planning Act, local planning units under the Watershed Planning Act, and other watershed groups. Both tools provide guidance on what needs to be done at the watershed level to conserve salmon habitat. "Habitat conservation" includes protecting, maintaining and restoring habitat to support the needs of salmon. The *Salmon Recovery Plan Model* provides guidance to regional organizations involved in salmon recovery planning by outlining the necessary elements of a regional salmon recovery plan.

How do these tools relate to each other?

Each tool can be used independent of the other three; however, use of all four will lead to more comprehensive and thorough salmon recovery efforts at the regional and watershed levels. The *Reference Guide* provides background information on salmon recovery that will help people understand the other three tools. The watershed assessment called for in the *Assessment Guidance* provides the initial steps and foundation for salmon habitat conservation. The *Watershed Roadmap* picks up from where the *Assessment Guidance* ends by outlining key steps needed to ensure salmon habitat conservation. The *Assessment Guidance* and *Watershed Roadmap* are both intended to result in watershed level approaches that will support and link to regional salmon recovery plans as outlined in the *Salmon Recovery Plan Model*.

What is the relationship between these tools and salmon recovery funding?

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board has encouraged lead entities to use the *Assessment Guidance* to develop strategies and priorities for habitat projects. Funding from other sources may be available for watershed and regional salmon recovery plans. Developing watershed plans that are consistent with the *Watershed Roadmap* and building the elements called for in the *Salmon Recovery Plan Model* into regional salmon recovery plans will be important factors in gaining state support to secure potential funding for plan implementation.

How do these state tools relate to federal guidance?

These state tools have taken into account and are consistent with relevant guidance developed by federal agencies. This includes key guidance developed by the National Marine Fisheries Service, i.e., *Coastal Salmon Conservation: Working Guidance for Comprehensive Salmon Restoration Initiatives on the Pacific Coast* (September 1996) and *Recovery Planning Guidance for Technical Recovery Teams* (September 2000). The state tools also complement and are consistent with the *Technical Guide for Sub-basin Planners* (2001) developed by the Northwest Power Planning Council. Watershed and regional efforts that are consistent with these state tools can expect the state's support in using these locally developed watershed and regional plans as part of federal recovery plans under the Endangered Species Act.

Whom do I contact to learn more about these tools?

To order a copy of the *Reference Guide, Assessment Guidance or Watershed Roadmap* contact:

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
PO Box 43135
Olympia WA 98504-3135
FAX (360) 902-2215

or send e-mail to salmon@esa.wa.gov

To download it from the internet link to: <http://www.governor.wa.gov/esa>

To talk to someone call: (360) 902-2216

If you have specific questions about the *Salmon Recovery Plan Model* contact:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capital Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091
FAX (360) 902-2182

or send e-mail to salmonrecovery@dfw.wa.gov

To talk to someone call: (360) 902-2713